Relaxation in Norms for Underground cable connecting Villlages in North-East Region

4476. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a restriction of 5 Km. radial distance for undergound cable for connecting villages covered by different Exchanges;

(b) if so, whether Government is aware that in the North-East and other hill areas, there is an urgent need for relaxing this norm due to sparse distribution of populations; and

(c) whether Government propose to relax this norm for these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

New Telephone Exchange in Tripura

4477. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for setting up of a new Telephone Exchange in Tripura;

(b) if so, how many such exchnages are proposed to be set up during the next year; and

(c) whether the entire Tripura will be covered under this plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Exchange-wise commissioning programme for next year (1999-2000) is not finalised. However, Nine exchanges are proposed to be set up during 1998-99.

(c) Yes, Sir, the above 9 exchanges are proposed to be set up at different places of entire Tripura.

Reduction in Telecom Tariff

4479. SHRI C. . RAMACHAN-DRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand from Andhra Pradesh Government to reduce the general telecom tariff in the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Central Government;

(c) whether any efforts have been made to reduce the tariff in view of automation and other technical improvements; and

(d) the steps proposed to reduce telecom tariff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN TJHE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PORKAYASTHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d) Tariff rationalisation is a continuous process and appropriate decision is taken based on all relevant considerations such as technology, cost para-metres, traffic parametres, resources re-quiren^ents, etc.

STD booths in some districts of Andhra Pradesh

4479. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand to increase the number of public STD booths in the districts of Cuddapah and Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the demand presently for this category of phones;

(c) what steps Government propose to make the STD booths more accessible;

(d) whether Government is giving them adequate facilities and help to function better; and

(e) if so, full details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The demand in Cuddapah SSA is 1606 and that for Chittoor SSA is 6000.

(c) The registration for STD PCOs has been made a continuous process and efforts are made to allot more PCOs to the eligible applicants by augmenting the exchange capacity.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The following facilities are available for be better functioning of the PCOs:

(i) provision of 16 KHz pulse from the exchanges to STD PTs to ensure correct billing;

(ii) provision of adequate number of junctions to avoid congestion on the STD Routes;-

(iii) provision of multi frequency dialling;

(iv) provision of STD charge indicator of approved make is insisted.

Waiting list position for new telephone connections in Assam

4480. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the waiting list position of the demand for new telephone connections in different exchange in the State of Assam as on 31st March, 1998;

(b) the total number of applications in the waiting list pending during the last five years, year-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to clear the waiting lists in the State?

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THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Exchange-wise waiting list position as on 31.3.98 is as statement attached *(See below).*

(b) The total number of applications in the waiting list pending during the last five years, year-wise is given below:—

status of waiting list as on:

31.3.94	31.3.95	31.3.96	31.3.97	31.3.98
9820	15028	19648	28422	20795

(c) Switching capacity is planned to be expended in exchanges wherever justified as per demand growth. Net Switching Capacity target of 68000 lines is fixed for the circle during the year 1998-99 against DELs target of 50000, so that demand booked upto 31.12.98 could be cleared by 31.3.99 throughout the State.

Statement

Sr. No.	Name of Exchange	Waiting list as on 31.3.98 PTF
1.	Abhayapuri	65
2.	Agomani	5
3.	Algapur	74
4.	Ambagan	23
5.	Amguri	18
6.	Amingaon	154
7.	Arunachal	31
8.	B. Chariali	44
9.	Badarpur	263
10.	Badullpar	9
11.	Baghmara	16
12.	Baihaia	0
13.	Bakulia	22
14.	Balipara	15
15.	Bamunbari	1
16.	Baraigarm	76
17.	Barama	0
18.	Barapujia	0
19.	Barbarua	1
20.	Barpaihar	5
21.	Barpeta RD	32
22.	Barpeta TN	189
23.	Bashandi	48
24.	Basugaon	0
25.	Bazarghat	32
26.	Bazarichera	31
27.	Bebejia	33
28.	Bed	7